

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A gas barrier coating material comprising polyvinyl alcohol (A), an ethylene-maleic acid copolymer (B), and a metal compound (D), wherein a ratio (A)/(B) between the polyvinyl alcohol (A) and the ethylene-maleic acid copolymer (B) falls within a range from (A)/(B) = 50/50 to 10/90 (weight ratio), the metal compound (D) comprises at least one compound selected from a group consisting of ~~hydroxides, oxides, halides, carbonates, sulfates, nitrates, sulfites, and acetates of bivalent or higher metals selected from a group consisting of Mg, Ca, Al, Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu~~ Mg hydroxide, Mg oxide, Ca hydroxide, and Ca oxide, and a quantity of the metal compound (D), expressed as an equivalent value relative to carboxyl groups within the ethylene-maleic acid copolymer (B), is within a range from 0.05 to 30%.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The gas barrier coating material according to claim 1, wherein the metal compound (D) is capable of reacting with a hydroxyl group or a carboxyl group.

5. (Previously Presented) The gas barrier coating material according to claim 1, wherein a quantity of the metal compound (D), expressed as an equivalent value relative to carboxyl groups within the ethylene-maleic acid copolymer (B), is within a range from 0.05 to 12.5%.

6. (Previously Presented) A gas barrier laminate, comprising a plastic substrate, and a gas barrier layer formed from the gas barrier coating material according to claim 1, wherein the gas barrier layer is laminated on top of the plastic substrate, either directly, or with an undercoat layer disposed therebetween.

7. (Canceled)